

PRUNUS ROOTSTOCK NAMED 'GI 209/1'

BOTANICAL CLASSIFICATION

Interspecific Prunus hybrid

VARIETAL DENOMINATION

'GI 209/1'

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of *Interspecific Prunus hybrid* used as a rootstock known by the varietal name 'GI 209/1'. The new variety was discovered in Giessen, Germany in 1969. The new variety is the result of a planned breeding program between *Prunus cerasus* 'Shattenmorelle' (female parent) and a *Prunus canescens* (male parent). The new variety differs from its parents in that it is a triploid genome. The purpose of the breeding program was to produce a series of dwarfing, precocious, productive rootstocks for sweet cherries. The new variety has been trial and field tested and has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics and remain true to type through successive propagations.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The accompanying photographic drawing illustrates the new cultivar, with the color being as nearly true as is possible with color illustrations of this type:

Fig. 1 illustrates two entire plants of the new variety; and

Fig. 2 is a close-up of the leaves and branches of the new variety.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PLANT

The following detailed description sets forth the characteristics of the new cultivar. The data which defines these characteristics were collected by asexual reproductions carried by green cuttings under mist and in vitro conditions. The first and subsequent asexual reproductions occurred in approximately 1972 in Giessen, Germany. The color readings were taken in natural daylight. Color references are primarily to the R.H.S. Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London.

PLANT

Use: Only as a rootstock.

Size: Small.

Form: Bushy; crown is more broad than high; flat branching.

Productivity: Early blooming and high blossom intensity.

Fruit bearing: Very rare.

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Hardiness: Good.

Rooting habit: Freely branching and fibrous; highly dense.

Time to initiate roots: 3-4 weeks.

Disease and pest resistance: Tolerant to Prunus dwarf virus (PDV) and Prunus necrotic ringspot virus (PNRSV).

Trunk (described at 2 years):

Diameter: 12 mm.

Height: 150 cm.

Bark color:

Surface: Dark brown.

Flesh: Light green.

Lenticels:

Color: White-cream.

Diameter: 1 mm.

Arrangement: Irregular.

Branches:

Color:

Surface: Brown.

Flesh: Light yellow.

Internode length: Approximately 3 cm.

Branching angle at emergence: 60 – 80 °.

Diameter: Approximately 1/3 the diameter of the trunk.

Length: Approximately 2/3 the length of a 1 year old trunk.

Pubescence: None.

Branch lenticels:

Color: White-cream.

Diameter: 1 mm.

Arrangement: Irregular.

Leaves:

Length: 7.5 cm.

Width: 4.2 cm.

Shape: Lanceolate.

Apex: Acuminate.

Base: Rounded; elliptical.

Color:

Adaxial: Bright green.

Abaxial: Light green.

Surface:

Adaxial: Arched intercostal areas.

Abaxial: Pilose.

Margins: Serrated.

Division: Leaves are entire.

Petiole:

Length: 1.5 cm.

Width: 1.5 mm.

Color: Light greenish-brown.

Surface: Smooth.

Leaf stipules:

Presence: Two at the base of the petiole.

Shape: Lanceolate.

Length: 1.0 cm.

Leaf pubescence: Slight.

Venation pattern: Pinnate.

Vein color:

Adaxial: Yellow.

Abaxial: Light yellow.

Leaf texture: Herbaceous.

Fruit description: Little, similar to *Prunus avium*.

Flower:

Arrangement: Similar to *Prunus avium*.

Shape: Similar to *Prunus avium*.

Bud:

Width: 3.0 mm.

Length: 5.0 mm.

Color:

Closed: Yellow-brown.

Before bursting: Greenish brown.

Time of bloom: April.

Lastingness of bloom: Two to three weeks.

Diameter: 10 – 15 mm.

Depth: 10 – 15 mm.

Bloom quantity: Very fertile; an enormous quantity of flowers.

Number of petals: Five.

Petal margin: Rounded; entire.

Flower color when fully opened:

Upper surface: White.

Lower surface: White.

Peduncle:

Length: 15 – 20 mm.

Width: 1 mm.

Surface: Smooth.

Color:

Upper surface: Yellow-green.

Lower surface: Yellow to brownish green.

Natural flowering season: Comparable to *Prunus avium*.

Fragrance: Present.

Multiplication ability: Good via softwood cuttings.

Performance as a grafted rootstock:

Root sprouts: No suckers observed.

Anchorage: Needs support.

Compatibility: Good virus-free budding material.

Vigor: Strong growth reduction.

REPRODUCTIVE ORGANS

Stamens:

Number: Five.

Length: 10 – 15 mm.

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Color: Yellow-green.

Anthers:

Shape: Rounded.

Color: Yellow-brown.

Length: 1.0 mm.

Width: 0.5 – 1.0 mm.

Amount of pollen: Average.

Color of pollen: Yellow.

Stigma color: Green.

Pistils:

Length: 2.0 – 3.0 mm.

Style:

Color: Green.

Form: Rounded.

Length: 2.0 mm.

Width: 1.5 – 2.0 mm.

Ovaries:

Length: 3.0 mm.

Width: 2.0 mm.

Color: Green.

Position: Protruding.